

REMARKS

Claims 22-23 and 25-38 were pending in the application. Claims 22, 27, 32, 33 and 37 are amended, and claims 25 and 38 are cancelled. Claims 22-23 and 26-37 are now pending. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the foregoing remarks.

1. Indication of allowable subject matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indication that claims 25, 32, and 33 define over the prior art (See Advisory Action dated October 11, 2005. Applicant has amended claim 22 to incorporate the patentable subject matter recited in claim 25. Claims 23, 26, and 29-33 depend from claim 22 and are believed allowable for the same reasons that claim 22 is believed allowed. Claim 27 is also amended to recite the patentable subject matter previously recited in claim 25. Claims 28 and 34-36 depend from claim 27 and are believed allowable for the same reasons that claim 27 is believed allowed. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 22-23 and 26-36 is respectfully requested.

2. Rejections in view of cited prior art

The Examiner rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,223,178 to Clifford et al. (the Clifford et al. patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,590,721 to Van Mill (the Van Mill patent). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 37 is amended to recite a method of tilling soil that includes, *inter alia*, the steps of adjusting said gang angle of said adjacent disc gangs so as to pivot said

support structure about a vertical axis to thereby bring said adjacent disc gangs into alignment, wherein said support structure comprises a main beam that is coupled to a front portion of said mainframe and a disc support beam that is located in front of said main beam that is coupled to said main beam so as to move therewith, relative to the forward draft direction of the implement.

The Van Mill patent does not disclose disc gangs capable of alignment at a common gang angle relative to the draft direction. Rather, the location of the disclosed pins 122 and slots 119 and 121 along the same tube makes alignment of the alleged adjacent disc gangs 112 impossible. To correct this deficiency, the Examiner cites to the Clifford et al. patent as disclosing adjacent disc gangs capable of alignment.

However, none of the cited references disclose where a disc support beam is located in front of the main beam that is coupled to the main beam so as to move therewith, relative to the forward draft direction. Thus, the cited references fail to disclose each and every limitation of claim 37 as amended. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claim 37 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

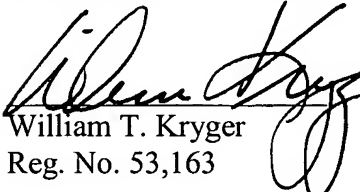
It is submitted that claims 22-23 and 26-37 define patentable subject matter. A Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

A fee of \$120.00 is included with this communication for a one-month extension of time. Nevertheless, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, authorization is given to direct payment of such fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite matters.

Respectfully submitted,


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